

MAR 13 2015

S.R. NO. 40

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE AIRPORTS DIVISION AND HARBORS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE THREAT OF AN OUTBREAK OF CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an isolated island state in the Pacific  
2 Ocean; and  
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4 WHEREAS, historically Hawaii has been geographically  
5 vulnerable to viruses and infectious diseases, such as dengue  
6 fever, leprosy, and leptospirosis; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus is transmitted by the bite  
9 of an infected mosquito of mostly the *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes*  
10 *albopictus* species; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the first known locations of an  
13 invasion by *Aedes aegypti*; and  
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii officials had previously considered *Aedes*  
16 *aegypti* to be nonexistent in Hawaii by 1949, but the Department  
17 of Health discovered *Aedis aegypti* in mosquito traps set at the  
18 Honolulu International Airport in 2012; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus causes fever, headache,  
21 nausea, and severe joint pain that can last for years; and  
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23 WHEREAS, there is no specific antiviral drug treatment or  
24 commercial vaccine for the virus, and treatment is focused on  
25 relieving symptoms through administration of antipyretics,  
26 optimal analgesics, and constant rehydration; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus has infected massive  
29 portions of Tahiti; and  
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31 WHEREAS, Hawaii receives many thousands of visitors every  
32 year from Tahiti, Tonga, American Samoa, and other Pacific



1 islands on which there are confirmed cases of the virus and  
2 populations of the disease-carrying mosquito; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced a steady increase over the  
5 past decade of confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases  
6 transmitting dengue and yellow fever; and  
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the hot and humid climate ideal for  
9 mosquitoes; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Sanitation Branch of the Department of Health  
12 educates the public on basic disease preventative measures and  
13 protects state infrastructure by designing and implementing  
14 policies involving community sanitation and emergency response;  
15 and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Vector Control Unit, a section of the  
18 Sanitation Branch, regulates, controls, and eradicates disease-  
19 carrying pests in the State, including mosquitoes; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the Vector Control Unit experienced a workforce  
22 reduction in 2009 that resulted in a reduced staff of four  
23 workers on Oahu, four on Kauai, two in Maui County, and two on  
24 Hawaii Island; now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
28 that the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural  
29 Resources, and the Airports Division and Harbors Division of the  
30 Department of Transportation are strongly urged to establish an  
31 advisory committee to analyze the current threat of chikungunya  
32 virus in Hawaii; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory committee be named  
35 the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Chikungunya  
38 Virus Advisory Committee be to research and report to the  
39 Legislature:  
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- 41 (1) Internal administrative measures that would provide  
42 the Vector Control Unit with the necessary personnel,



1 training, and resources to establish a long-term  
2 strategy to control the growth of invasive mosquito  
3 species and mosquito-borne diseases in Hawaii;  
4

5 (2) Public-private partnerships capable of resuming pest  
6 control services previously conducted by the Vector  
7 Control Unit, such as regular inspection and  
8 surveillance of confirmed cases of mosquito-borne  
9 viruses and inspection of properties that may host  
10 infected or live-breeding mosquitoes;  
11

12 (3) Cost-effective and practical methods by which to  
13 educate the general public and incoming visitors on  
14 the common causes, symptoms, and preventative methods  
15 of chikungunya virus;  
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17 (4) Specific strategies to coordinate state and Vector  
18 Control Unit actions to undertake comprehensive  
19 surveillance, inspection, and treatment of individuals  
20 infected by a mosquito-borne virus and properties  
21 identified as sites commonly inhabited by live-  
22 breeding mosquitoes; and  
23

24 (5) Practical and cost-effective emergency policies that  
25 would guide state administration of health care  
26 services statewide, with particular focus on providing  
27 health care services promptly to communities located  
28 in rural areas, following an outbreak of chikungunya  
29 virus; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory  
32 Committee consist of the following members:  
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34 (1) One representative of the Vector Control Unit;  
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36 (2) One representative of the Sanitation Branch of the  
37 Department of Health;  
38

39 (3) One representative of the Department of Health;  
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41 (4) One representative of the Department of Land and  
42 Natural Resources;



(5) One representative of the Department of Transportation Airports Division; and

(6) One representative of the Department of Transportation Harbors Division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee select a chairperson from among themselves, and the chairperson is requested to convene meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee serve without compensation but be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties; and

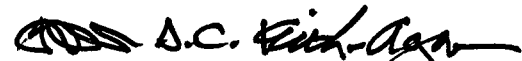
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee submit its written findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

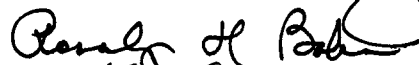
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee cease to exist on June 30, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Director of Transportation.

OFFERED BY:

  
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